

Message Text

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ACTION OES-02

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EA-06 ERDA-05 ERDE-00 INR-05

INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 DODE-00 ACDA-10 SSO-00 NSC-05

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O R 271135Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4224

INFO USMISSION IAEA VIENNA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 3625

LIMDIS

DEPT PASS TO NEAL MOORE, DIVISION OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS,
ERDA, GERMANTOWN, MD.: CARL MALMSTROM, DEPUTY MGR.
USERDA, IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, VS

SUBJECT: VIETNAM RESEARCH REACTOR

REF: A) STATE 068591; B) STATE 066714; C) STATE 065363;
D) STATE 062177; E) STATE 031164; F) SAIGON 3267;
G) SAIGON 3311; H) SAIGON 3489; I) IAEA VIENNA 2556, 2536

1. HORAN AND HENDRICKSON INSPECTED DALAT REACTOR TODAY AND BELIEVE
AIR EVACUATION CAN BE CARRIED OUT. FACILITIES AT REACTOR SITE ARE
LIMITED BUT ADEQUATE. MEASUREMENTS OF FUEL ELEMENTS REVEAL 2
ROENTGENS PER HOUR AT 22 INCHES.

2. WITH RESPECT TO QUESTIONS POSED PARA 6, REF A, HEAVY DUTY TRUCK
IS AVAILABLE IN DALAT. ONE TON CAPACITY FORKLIFT NOT AVAILABLE AND
SHOULD BE LOADED ON AIRCRAFT. FIVE TON OVERHEAD WRIGHT CRANE IS ON
SITE AND IS OPERATIONAL. ONLY ONE UNDERWATER LIGHT FUNCTIONING.
REACTOR STAFF ATTEMPTING REPAIR OTHER TWO LIGHTS BUT FOR CONTINGENCY
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REQUEST LIGHT WITH UNDERWATER HOUSING AND 12 FOOT CABLE BE PLACED

ON AIRCRAFT. ALSO NEED HEADLING TOOL, ONE JORDAN RADECTOR RANGE TO 5 R/HR, SLING FOR 5 TON WRIGHT CRANE FITTED TO CASKS OR PALLET, FOUR TLD WRIST BADGES

3. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT UNLOADING AND LOADING OF AIRCRAFT WILL BE MOST DIFFICULT AND TIME CONSUMING TASK. THUS, NEED TO KNOW ASAP FOR PLANNING PURPOSES IF CASKS ARE PALLETIZED. IF SO, WHAT ARE DIMENSIONS OF PALLETS? CAN ONE TONE FORKLIFT HANDLE PALLETIZED CASKS? PERHAPS TWO TON CAPACITY FORKLIFT WOULD BE BETTER. IS IT EXPECTED THAT CASKS WILL BE HANDLED SEPARATELY? ARE TOOLS NEEDED AS MUCH ADVANCE DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE TO EXPEDITE HANDLING.

4. HORAN, HENDRICKSON AGREE THAT MISSION CAN BE ACCELERATED. AIRCRAFT SHOULD PROCEED TO CLARK AS SOON AS EQUIPEMENT REQUESTED ABOVE IS ON BOARD. REQUEST ETA CLARK WHERE FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE GIVEN.

5. GVN IS AWARE THAT PLUTONIUM-BERYLLIUM NEUTRON SOURCE AT DALAT IS GVN PROPERTY. EMBASSY WILL DISCUSS DISPOSITION OF SOURCE WITH PROPER AUTHORITIES.

6. SECURITY SITUATION AT DALAT REMAINS STABLE. HOWEVER, TO ENSURE THAT REACTOR FUEL DOES NOT FALL INTO NORTH VIET-NAM HANDS IF SECURITY SITUATION WORSENS, CONTINGENCY PLAN TO FILL REACTOR TANK WITH CONCRETE WILL BE WORKED OUT WITH GVN AUTHORITIES. HORAN AND HENDRICKSON ARE PREPARED TO ASSIST. LEHMANN

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO.

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